



September 4, 2014

Dear Educator,

Thank you for your interest in the first Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Culture of Reading book grant! This grant provides a copy of the 2013 *Michigan Reads!* Book of the Year, *Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band* to every child in the grant recipient's classroom. The books are awarded to support evidence-based reading instruction and family engagement activities in the classroom or program – and most importantly, the books are to be sent home with the child to start or build his or her home library.

Eligible applicants for this grant are teachers and/or program leaders of students in early childhood programs through 3rd grade that meet any of the eligibility criteria for low-income status identified in Section I of the grant application. Applicants must provide assurances that the number of books requested is equal to the number of students in the classroom or program and that the books will be used for the purposes stated above. Applicants must also provide a brief narrative describing how the books will be used in the classroom or program to support evidence-based reading instruction and/or family engagement activities. Preference will be given to applications that address both grant purposes.

In order to be considered for an award, the attached application must be completed and received by **5:00 p.m. EST on October 6, 2014**. Please fill the form out in Adobe Acrobat and save it to print or email. Applications may be submitted via email (CultureofReading@michigan.gov) or regular mail:

Michigan Department of Education
Culture of Reading Grant Program
Attn: Abbie Groff-Blaszak
PO Box 30008
Lansing, MI 48909

For questions regarding the MDE Culture of Reading book grant, please contact Abbie Groff-Blaszak at groff-blaszaka@michigan.gov or 517-373-8572.

The Culture of Reading program was started in December 2013 as a way to get more books into the hands of children in Michigan and support early literacy. The program provides a way for individuals, businesses, and groups to contribute any amount for the express purpose of providing children's books to young readers and expand the effort to get more kids reading proficiently by the end of third grade. More information can be found at www.michigan.gov/cultureofreading.

Respectfully,

Mike Flanagan
State Superintendent